WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT DATE IN YOUR DIARY?

18th June, 1986 NATURALLY

The Date of the AUSBORNE USER GROUP Limited Annual General Meeting

BE THERE

That's right, its time to elect the Committee of the Ausborne User Group Limited again. As you will have noted in the previous AUSNEWS nominations were call and by the closing date of 4th June 1986 fourteen had been received. They are listed below in alphabetical order. Those marked with an asterisk are currently serving Committee Members prepared to continue if re-elected.

Name	Membership Number	Town
Chris ALLNUTT	741	Bolton Point
* Trevor BIRD	4	Wahroonga
* Brian CARNEY	6	Asquith
Barry CLARK	833	Richmond
Sibila ESPINOSA	893	Earlwood
* John GELLATLY	823	Lane Cove
James KILBY	945	Gosford

The Annual General Meeting is the most important meeting of the year. Its when you elect the new executive of the Group. As nominations have closed you can come along to the meeting without the fear of being "dobbed in". So do come and exercise you voting power. In view of the number of nominations a first past the post ballot will be necessary. Should make things very interesting! Come and see who makes it!

Name	Membership Number	Town
* Michael LEAHY	290	Roseville
Fred MALLIA	932	Balmain
John ORLAY	102	Bellevue Hill
David PALMER	451	St Ives
* Keith RIDER	445	Abbotsford
* John RIGBY	509	Ermington
Graham TYNAN	878	Rockdale

IN THIS ISSUE

ABOUT THE GROUP

The Ausborne User Group was founded in October, 1982 by a small group of enthusiastic Osborne 1 users. The group became a Company limited by guarantee on the 4th November 1985 and is now one of the largest microcomputer user groups in Australia. The active support of Members since the formation of the Group has now resulted in the development of many services to Members. These are outlined below.

GROUP MANAGEMENT

The Group is an independent, self-help, non-profit organisation. It is managed by an elected Committee on a voluntary, (non paid) basis. To avoid disruption to private lives, most of the Group's business is carried out via the postal system. Apart from the AUSBOARD and AUSPHONE there is **NO** provision for telephone contact.

CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence should be addressed to:
The Secretary,
Ausborne User Group
P. O. Box C530 Clarence St.
SYDNEY NSW 2000

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to all users and owners of computers compatible with those marketed by the Osborne Computer Corporation. This includes computers using the CP/M and MS-DOS operating systems.
Joining Fee $ 10.00
Annual Subscription Individual:
(Australia) $ 25.00 (Overseas)$ 37.00
Corporate $ 100.00
The Membership Year extends from 1st August to the following 31st July. Members joining after the 1st June are financial for the following fiscal year.

SERVICES TO MEMBERS

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6.30pm at the Burwood RSL, 96 Shaftesbury Road, Burwood NSW. A selection of disks from the Software Library is usually available, as are some of the Ausshop catalogue items. The meeting format is usually informal, commencing with a brief review of Committee activities, a question and answer session following which the meeting is broken into groups of common interest, both hardware and software.

AUSNEWS

- The Ausborne User Group Newsletter. A monthly Newsletter is published, and is distributed free of charge to all financial Members. The Newsletter contains help, hints, problems etc. that all micro users encounter.

AUSEDUCATE

- The Training Section. The Group conducts various training sessions and seminars for the benefit of members. Look for details of these and other training and education seminars in the AUSCalender column of AUSNEWS.

AUSSOFTLIB

- The Software Library AUSBORNE has available in excess of 25Mb of Public Domain CP/M Software. The MS-DOS software library is embryonic at present, but as more members become MS-DOS users, this library will continue to grow to similar proportions as the CP/M library. Brief details of the Software Library are contained on your Members Disk.
·Ordering Procedure: 1. Name, membership number and return address. 2. Disk name (eg: FOG/APP.002) 3. $6.00 per disk ordered. (This includes mailing and the floppy disk.) 4. Mail the order to:
AUSSOFTLIB, P. O. Box C530, Clarence St., SYDNEY NSW 2000
Orders are usually filled within 2 weeks. The software carries no guarantees or warranty. AUSBORNE does not condone or support the duplication of Proprietry (Copyright) Software, and as such is not available through the Library.

AUSPUBLIB

- The Publications Library AUSPublib's purpose is obtain hard to get texts and make them available to Members on a short term loan (one fortnight). A deposit of $20.00 is required prior to the publication being lent. This deposit (less packaging and postage charges) is refunded on return of the documents. Failure to return publications may result in forfeit of your deposit.

AUSSHOP

With our large user base, we have been able to purchase certain items at far less cost than is normally possible at your corner computer store. There is an catalogue/order form included AUSNEWS.

AUSPHONE

- the Group's Telephone:

(02) 439 7084

AUSBORNE'S telephone answering machine. Leave your name, phone number and a brief message. A Committee person will then phone back as soon as possible. Callers from outside the Metro phone area will be called REVERSE CHARGES.
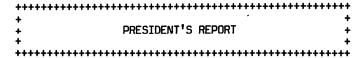
AUSBOARD

- the Group's Bulletin Board Access is available to Members at no charge. Please notify the SYSOP of any bugs encountered. Feel free to use the system.

TELEPHONE (02) 439 7072

PLEA: Please keep it short. AVAILABILITY: 24 Hours, 7 days

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+                                                    +
+               PRESIDENT'S REPORT                   +
+                                                    +
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The highlight of the year was the incorporation of
the Group into a public company limited by guarantee.
This limits the liability of the membership should
anything untoward occur and at the same time imposes
certain legal requirements on the operation of the
Group that should in themselves ensure the
interests of the membership at large are protected.

The year has seen a decline in membership from 750
last year to 476 at the 30th April 1986. The actual
reason for the decline is unknown, but I believe it
is the old problem of "take what you want then cut
and run and don't under any circumstances get
involved", which runs totally against the basis of
the Group which involves mutual help. Let's face it,
the more you put in the more you get back.

AUSSHOP has had a successful year under the
management of David Palmer. Total sales are down on
previous years reflecting the decline in membership
numbers and also the increased competitiveness of the
open market place. It is getting harder and harder to
offer prices lower than some of the commercial
vendors. We would ask you to support Ausshop wherever
practical as the modest markup we apply goes to
keeping subscriptions down and supporting operations
of the Group without the need to increase
subscriptions.

AUSSOFTLIB continues to grow with further disks from
the FOG collection and a marked increase in the
amount of submissions from members. This is a very
pleasing trend and we hope to see it continue to
grow.

John Pollock, who has directed to operation of
AUSSOFTLIB for the passed couple of years will not be
available for re-election this year, as other
commitments have assumed a dominent position as
regards his spare time. His loss from the Committee
will be sorely felt, but his efforts in consolidating
the development of the software library will make the
task much easier for those following. Thanks John for
your untiring contribution.

AUSNEWS has arrived in your letter boxes more
regularly under the Editorship of Bradley de Vere
Wynne and production assistance of John Rigby. They
would have been more frequent had there been more
material available for publication, but that requires
more contributions from you, the general membership.
Remember, those problems you have solved, tricks you
have learned and knowledge of programs you have
gained is undoubtedly of interest to others because
they are USERS just like you. So write it up and send
it in.

Unfortunately work and other commitments are forcing
Bradley to forego the pleasure of being a Committee
person and AUSNEWS Editor in the coming year. Thanks
Bradley for your good work and may we continue to see
you contributing to Ausnews on an ad hoc basis.

AUSPUBLIB has continued to grow and a number of
relatively scarce volumes have been added over the
past year. A number of members have donated
publications to the hard copy library and to the
donors we express our collective thanks.

AUSBOARD has probably been the most disappointing
area of activity this year. We have not been able to
achieve the level of sophistication and reliability
that we have desired. We desperately need someone
with burning desire to become a SYSOP and who has a
thorough understanding of computers and software,

particularly Osborne 1's and Executives. We have the
hardware and software, all we need is the expertise!

Your Committee has worked hard throughout the year to
maintain and improve upon the level of service you
have come to expect. I shan't single out any
Committee person for special mention as all have
pulled their weight, and as usual contributed greatly
to the success of the year's operations.

To the outgoing Committee Persons I express my
personal thanks and the thanks of all the members,
for your efforts throughout the year.

It is my intention to stand down as President at the
coming Annual General Meeting to allow the infusion
of some new blood to this executive position. This I
believe is essential as the Group must not be seen to
be dependant on the same old few.

I am gratified to see that fourteen nominations for
the Committe have been received. This is sure to
guarantee the influx of new blood and should provide
for an interesting election of Office Bearers on 18th
June 1986 when nine of the nominees will be elected
to office. (Don't tell them yet, but those who
nominated but aren't elected to the Committee wont
get away scot free, they'll be called to help with
all manner of things!)

Finally, thank you all for your support during my two
terms as President. I'm sure you will support the new
President and your Committee in the same manner and
thus ensure the ongoing success of the AUSBORNE USER
GROUP Limited.

<div align="right">

Trevor R. Bird
President 1985/86
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ADDITION TO THE HARD-COPY LIBRARY

CP/M PLUS   (CP/M Version 3) Programmer's Guide.
Digital Research. Jan. 83.Introduction to CP/M 3. The
BDOS System Interface. BDOS File System. BDOS
Function Calls. Programming Examples. (This volume
has been donated to the Group by Trevor Bird.)

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AUSBORNE USER GROUP NEWSLETTER

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$ TREASURER'S REPORT $
$ $
$ 12 Months Ended 30th April 1986 $
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The interim Members Funds and Income & Expenditure
tables appended to this report summarize the
financial standing of the Group at 30th April 1986,
the end of our Financial Year.

Our performance for the last financial year has shown
a decline in membership from 750 members at 30th
April 1985 to 476 at 30th April 1986. This has been
reflected in our cash flow for the year.

The year's performance has shown a reduction in
members funds of $2290.84. This takes into account
the following abnormal amounts:

Bad debts written off	$ 502.00
Depreciation at 20% pa	$ 1921.94
	$ 2423.94

Prior to the above write offs the Group finished with
an excess of expenditure over income of $ 1788.84,
which was made up from reserves.

It is my recommendation that the current Membership
and Joining Fees be maintained for the coming
financial year.

B. W. Carney
Honorary Treasurer

MEMBERS FUNDS
Period: 30/4/86

ASSETS	PRIOR YEAR	CURRENT YEAR
Bank	-749.31	1818.23
Stock	6193.75	4620.31
Debtors	395.00	705.00
Equipment	8623.28	7687.74
Investments	7258.78	2677.44
Members Funds	$ 21721.50	$ 17508.72

INCOME & EXPENDITURE
Period: 30/4/86

	INCOME	Year To Date EXPEND	PROFIT
Members	13036.00	-25.00	13061.00
Software	4129.90	2553.88	1576.02
Supplies	10551.19	11502.23	-951.04
Library	733.35	1033.47	-300.12
Education	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hall	100.00	1080.00	-980.00
Advertising	1590.00	-214.00	1804.00
Interest	418.66		418.66
Miscellaneous	-1.00		-1.00
	30558.10	15930.58	14627.52

Postage & Stationary	2372.57
Telephone	1162.57
Magazine	12102.95
Other	3202.52
	-4212.78
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MODEMANIAC
(or "Lack of Communication")

By CLIVE N. KING

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Recently I decided that, as I was making lots of
trips to the Chisholm Institute terminal room to work
on assignments for a course which I am doing, and as
(1) terminals were getting scarcer as the semester
progressed and (2) it was getting pretty darned cold
at nights anyway, I would BUY MYSELF A MODEM!!!

The capitals and exclamation marks are an attempt to
convey to the reader the enormity of the decision so
lightly made by me - a decision akin to deciding to
re-stump the Taj Mahal, and with just about as many
attendant hassles, as it turned out. However, to
begin at the beginning....

Firstly, (since looking up 'Osborne' in the 'phone
book is not much use these days - sadly), I trotted
along to the dealer from whence my trusty O-1 came.
The people there told me that the Sendata modem which
they showed me would plug right in and work without
problems. Now, I'm hopeless when it comes to the
technical aspects of anything more complicated than a
bread knife - but even I could see that the plug on
the other end of the modem cable had more than the 9
holes required by my machine. In fact, it didn't
have holes at all - it had pins! No worries, said
the sales-person. Just plug it into the RS-232 port,
and away you go.

Well, I plugged it in, I tested it, I read the manual
(the O-1 manual, not the two pages which came with
the Sendata) - all to no avail. I just wasn't
getting through. So, I returned the thing and got my
money back.

To cut a long, sad story short (involving TWO more
modems, neither of which worked on Ossie either), I
finally found out about an Osborne dealer in Sydney
(S.C.C. Computers), and gave them a bell. "Sure,"
said the helpful voice on the other end of the phone,
"we've got lots of modems here." "But will they work
on the O-1," I asked (by now having become somewhat
paranoid about the whole thing.) "Sure will," said
the voice. "No worries."

That was easy for HIM to say! Two days later, when
the parcel arrived and was eagerly torn open by Yours
Truly, I was horrified to see a cable with a RS-232
plug (which was in bits, to be assembled by the
user). And not only was it the wrong plug - it was a
FEMALE plug, which wouldn't plug into the O-1 anyway,
for goodness' sake!

By now, I was becoming desperate. I had modems
coming out of my ears, and still I was driving to and
from Caulfield to do my assignments. I phoned SCC
and spoke to Phil Osborne, who said that I could
either send the modem back, have the cable modified
(at my expense) in Melbourne, or send the cable back
to him and he would have one made for me (for around
$90.)

Somehow, options two and three weren't attractive
(especially since a call to Hills in Melbourne
elicited the information that a cable made by them
would cost $49 per hour (plus materials) to make up -
and they weren't sure how long the job would take.
Besides, I would have to take my O-1, the modem and
my comms. software to them, pick the lot up a day or
two later, and their hours of business are such that
I'd have to take time off work to do so.) So, I sent
the latest modem back to Sydney, and in desperation

left a message on the AUSPHONE machine. (My thanks to Col Patterson for calling me back.)

The crunch came not ten minutes later, as I sat drinking a cup of coffee (and mulling over my predicament) after having phoned AUSPHONE. There, on my coffee table, was a leaflet (some months old - I'm not much of a housekeeper) from a VOUG magazine. A place in Mount Waverley - Nucleus Computer Services - was advertising O-1 internal modems! The ad. had been right under my nose all this time ... I felt like a twit!

Yeah, but, I thought, after a moment or two - it'll no doubt be for the tan cased O-1, or they've sold out, or.... Well, I'm pleased to report that I obtained a DATACOM modem (part of a COMM-PAC package including software, documentation AND the correct cable) and everything works PERFECTLY.

The morals, I suppose, are: (1) If you're not a technician, get the equipment that's made for your machine, and (2) Read your mail.

For anyone who may be interested in a modem or other bits and pieces for Osbornes, Nucleus are at 202 Blackburn Road, Mount Waverley, 3149. Phone (03)232-6733.

Although it would seem from the foregoing that all my problems are over, that's not quite the case. I DO have a problem which some kindly member may be able to help me with: The PRIME computer with which I communicate employs Kermit to handle file transfers - and I have been unable to upload files to it. (In a sense, I've not been able to download files either, except that I can achieve the same object by simply listing a file while logging the session via AMCALL.)

Would anyone be able to tell me how I can either:

(a) use Kermit to control the Osborne modem (on which all settings are software-selected); or

(b) transfer files from Amcall to Kermit and vice versa?

I would be most grateful for any good advice which may come my way.

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=                     ADOG joins AUG                      =
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Members of the Adelaide Osborne Group voted unanimously at their 5th May 1986 meeting to merge with the Ausborne User Group Limited and to operate as a Special Interest Group (SIG) within AUG. ADOG will continue to operate under the ADOG banner and will continue their own monthly meetings.

Pending the June meeting of ADOG, Kingsley Garbett, Don Bradtke and Laurie Mather will act as the ADOG secretariate in the positions of Chairman, Secretary and AUSNEWS Sub-Editor respectively. At their June meeting an election will be held for those positions.

ADOG members wishing to contribute to AUSNEWS should contact either Laurie Mather or direct the contributions direct to the AUSNEWS Editor via the AUG PO Box.

We welcome the ADOG members to AUG and hope the merger lives up to their expectations. May you continue to enjoy the benefits of your local group and the expanded benefits of AUG.

SUPER SPECIALS ON PRINTER RIBBONS
ONLY WHILE STOCKS LAST

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M O N C A T

A SYSTEM FOR DEVELOPMENT, MAINTENANCE, AND SEARCHES

OF A CATALOGUE OF MONOGRAPHS AND SERIES

Version 1.00   January 1986

by STEVE FILAN

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BACKGROUND AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MONCAT has been developed specifically as a tool for use in management of the collection of monographs and series held in the reading room of the School of Geography, University of New South Wales. Its structure closely follows that of the MAPCAT system, which was written to handle cataloguing of the School's map collection.

Much of MONCAT is influenced by aspects of the design and coding of systems which were written for rather different purposes by
        Dr D. A. Lathrop
        Cardiac Electrophysiology Laboratory
        Children's Hospital Research Foundation
        Elland and Bethesda Avenues
        Cincinnati, Ohio 45229, U.S.A.
and by
        Stephen M. Leon
        Department of Law
        2 World Trade Center
        New York, NY 10047, U.S.A.

These systems ("RETRIEVE" by Lathrop, and "BOOKS" and "REFERENC" by Leon) were released to the public domain by their authors, and have been distributed through bulletin boards and through the Volume 230 of the SIG/M public domain library. A more detailed description of these systems appears in:

    Filan, S. (1986, in press). "Some bibliographic
    database management systems for use with dBase
    II: some preliminary comments." AUSNEWS Vol 3

Further acknowledgement is owed to Mr R. E. Jessop, of this School, who helped define the desirable operating characteristics of MONCAT after a period of experimentation with the public domain systems mentioned earlier.

HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS

Requirements for effective use of this system are the dBase II database management system, and a microcomputer+terminal which can function with that system. A printer is not essential, but would be highly desirable.

The current version of MONCAT is configured for a system with two disk drives.

The system has been developed for use with dBase II, Version 2.3b or later versions, on either 8-bit or 16-bit microcomputers. [Development and testing used an Osborne 01 8-bit microcomputer with CP/M-80 Version 2.2 operating system and version 2.3b of dBase II; however the major implementation of the system is intended to be on an IBM PC with PC-DOS operating system and dBase II version 2.41]

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The MONCAT system allows the user to store a description of each item in a collection, giving detail of:-

Main and subsidiary authors or issuing organisations.
Main title and subtitle.
Year of issue and edition number.
Size or relevant page numbers.
Catalogue number.
Publisher, or other publication detail.
Comments: "keywords" may be given as comments

This is done by allowing the user to enter records into a dBase II database file named MON.DBF having the following structure:

FLD	NAME	TYPE	WIDTH
001	AUTHOR1	C	120
002	AUTHOR2	C	060
003	TITLE1	C	120
004	TITLE2	C	060
005	YR:ED	C	018
006	PAGES	C	018
007	CATALOGUE	C	020
008	PUBLISHER	C	090
009	COMMENTS	C	159

For a number of applications, "AUTHOR1", "TITLE1" and "COMMENTS" fields are treated as consisting of shorter sub-fields corresponding to a single line of information on the screen or on a printed report.

The system automatically establishes file MON.DBF on disk drive B: if it does not already exist there.

MONCAT is a collection of dBASE II command files which allow for creation of the database, and for subsequent retrieval of details of holdings, as well as for editing of the data.

MONCAT provides for simultaneous searches of up to three fields of the database. For example, the system allows the user to ask for details of entries which have the words "Australia" and "location" somewhere in the title fields, and "transport" in the comments/keyword field.

The system allows for production of printed copies of the catalogue, with entries sorted alphabetically by entries in any one of the database fields:-
        AUTHOR   TITLE   CATALOGUE NO.

As the database can be processed by standard dBase II commands, as well as by the MONCAT facilities, the system allows scope for production of additional special-purpose reports.

CAPACITY

The number of holdings which can be catalogued with the MONCAT system depends on the hardware in use, on the way in which users may want to manipulate files for special purposes, and on the manner in which the system is installed.

The basic record size for MONCAT entries is 666 bytes (665 data, 1 header), but the system also generates temporary indexing files when report-printing is requested. Further, it is advisable that space be left free on the data disk for processing of back-up copies of the data-base (as the database grows, experienced dBase II users will find that the system's performance can be improved if the .DBF file is occasionally replaced by a SORTed version).

A rule-of-thumb recommendation is that users with systems based on floppy disk storage should not plan to have the database exceeding half the capacity of a disk. This would imply that an Osborne 1 double-density system should only be expected to handle a collection of about 140 items within a single database file; while an IBM PC with double-sided 5" floppy disks should safely handle a collection of about 260 items.   [Continued next page]

If it is desired that MONCAT be used to catalogue a system with larger holdings, the major options available appear to be:-

(a). Don't leave space for back-up copies. As space will still be required for index files, this would raise the rule-of-thumb limits by much less than 100%.

(b). Modify MONCAT to use smaller fields. This is considered undesirable as it would require excessively-abbreviated entries.

(c). Use different data disks for different sections of the collection, so that MONCAT processes several catalogues, not one. This approach will require more careful planning of the catalogue, and will require more labour in file managament.

(d). Acquire more storage: for example, a hard disk drive.

INSTALLATION PROCEDURE

As MONCAT can operate on a wide range of systems, there is scope for substantial variety in installation procedures. Users who do not feel that they are reasonably familiar with dBase II and with the operating system of the microcomputer may find it appropriate to seek some assistance in setting up the system for the first "run".

For most applications based on microcomputers with two floppy disk drives, an effective procedure will be for the user to prepare a "MONCAT system disk", which will normally be used as in drive A: This should have been formatted for the system being used, and have had "system tracks" written to it. The dBase II system, plus at least the following MONCAT files, should be copied to this disk:-

MONCAT.CMD	or MONCAT.PRG
EDITMON.CMD	or EDITMON.PRG
FINDMON.CMD	or FINDMON.PRG
MODELMON.DBF	
NEWMON.CMD	or NEWMON.PRG
PRINTMON.CMD	or PRINTMON.PRG

(The file type "CMD" is used for 8-bit systems, while "PRG" is used for 16-bit systems. Note that the only difference between .CMD and .PRG files is that they are renamed!) On most systems, ample room will be available on this "system disk" for further utility programs which individual users may find useful.

For drive B:, all that is needed is a formatted, blank disk. When MONCAT is first run, the system will create a database file "MON.DBF", and install the database on the drive B: disk.

If it is desired that a new database be established -- for example, for a separate collection -- all that is needed is to re-start MONCAT with a blank disk in drive B:

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Variation from the system described above may be required by some users. For example, a single-drive user might need to have all files on drive A:, while a user with a hard disk might want the system configured with MONCAT command files on drive C: and the database file on drive D:

Changes of this nature can be handled by changing only two lines of MONCAT code. The fourth non-comment line of the file MONCAT.CMD (MONCAT.PRG on 16-bit systems) defines the drive used for MONCAT's non-comment files in the same file identify the drive to be used for the database and for indexing files used during report-printing.

More extensive changes may require discussion with a user with greater dBase II experience.

GENERAL OPERATING PROCEDURE

Discussion below assumes that the "MONCAT system disk" has been prepared in the manner discussed in the previous section.

(a). Starting up.

Start or "boot up" the microcomputer with the "MONCAT system disk" in drive A:, and with a data disk in drive B: (At the first use of MONCAT, this data disk may be a formatted but otherwise blank disk. Later, the disk in drive B: will hold the file MON.DBF which is the main database file).

When the microcomputer's operating system has loaded, a "prompt" will appear on the screen, usually:-
    A>
At this stage, type
    A> DBASE MONCAT
and press the RETURN key. The system will load first the dBase II system and then the main commands for MONCAT. If there is no existing database file called MON.DBF on drive B:, MONCAT will set one up.

A message will appear on the screen asking you to type in the current date. While the date does not appear on most of the system's output, it is recorded in the database file whenever revisions are made. The system is set to handle dates in "international" form, rather than the American month-day-year system.

Next, a message asks:
    "Do you want relatively detailed help while the system is operating? (Y/N)"
and the cursor will point to a "default" answer "N", for "no". For the first time or two that you use the system, you may wish to have more detailed information on the screen: if so, retype this answer as "y" or "Y", and press RETURN. If not, simply press RETURN without typing anything. [This situation is repeated often: the system will display a "default" answer which you can accept simply by pressing return; or you can replace it by typing in something different).

Next, the system displays its main "menu" of options open to the user. This menu is shown at the head of the next page.

(b). The Main MONCAT Menu.

The display on the screen keeps returning, after each major function is executed, to:-

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***    Main MONCAT Menu    ***

0 - Exit to ordinary system
1 - Exit to dBase II control
2 - Add detail for new entries
3 - Find an entry or entries
4 - Produce a printed copy of
    the catalogue
5 - Edit existing entries
6 - Reset the "Help" level
Enter code number of desired action :  :
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You, the user, simply type the digit (0 to 6) corresponding to the option that you require.

Several of these options can be discussed very briefly.
    Option 0 - Exit to ordinary system.
This will be the way that you normally finish any

session with the MONCAT system. It allows control of the microcomputer to be removed from MONCAT and dBase II, so that you can perform other functions, or close the system down.

Option 1 - Exit to dBase II control.
This option may be selected by users with more dBase II experience: it closes down the MONCAT system, but leaves the system operating in dBase II.

Option 6 - Reset the "Help" level.
This is a "toggle" which simply switches the system backwards and forwards between giving "standard" and "extra" help in the form of messages on the screen. If you have asked for detailed help, but get tired of having the system repeat the same basic information, use this to "switch off"!

The other options cover rather more significant functions, and are discussed separately.

(c). Option 2 - Add Detail for New Entries.

When this option is selected, the screen is set up as a blank "form" on which the detail of a new entry can be typed. The layout of the screen looks like the following (spacing is slightly different):-

---

Form for entry of new detail ... fill in.

Author(s) or issuing organisations.
:   :
:   :
Secondary author(s).
:   :
Title.   :   :
:   :
Sub-title. :   :
 Year/edition.   Page numbers.   Catalogue number.

:   : :
Publisher   :
:   :
Comments, description and/or keywords.
:   :
:   :
:   :
_____

The pairs of colons mark off the space available for typing of each entry. The cursor automatically jumps to the start of the "Author1" field, where you can start typing detail for this entry. Press RETURN when you have finished entering detail in each section, and the cursor automatically jumps to the start of the next. When you press RETURN at the end of the last Comments field, the information on the screen will be stored. Then the system will ask whether you want to continue adding new entries: if not, the system goes back to the main menu.

[Editor's note: Steve's screen layout is more generous and sensible than may be inferred from the above; it has been modified to fit AUSNEWS column format.]

(d). Controlling Movement around the Screen.

Information entered to the database may be upper-case, lower-case or mixed.

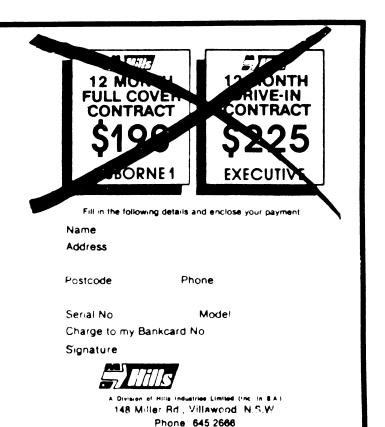Printed reports will match what you have typed, but in searches for information all characters will be treated as though they had been typed in upper case, so there will be no distinction between "Smith" and "SMITH".

The information that you type in is not actually stored until you press RETURN at the end of the "Comments" entry. Up to that stage you have the option of moving around the screen to

edit/correct/change any of the information that you have typed. To take advantage of this, you need to know how to move the cursor around the screen, and how to switch between "insert" and "overwrite" mode.

On many microcomputer/terminal systems you will have a set of keys which are marked with arrows pointing up/down/left/right, and which may be used to move the cursor about the screen while you are running MONCAT. However, not all systems have such keys; and some may even have arrow keys but not respond as you would expect.

Cursor movement on the screen can also be controlled by the following codes:-
<CTRL>D - MOVE CURSOR RIGHT   <CTRL>E - MOVE CURSOR UP
<CTRL>S - MOVE CURSOR LEFT   <CTRL>X - MOVE CURSOR DOWN
(The expression "<CTRL>D" indicates pressing the "control" key and the "D" key simultaneously).

Control-codes can also be used to delete previously-entered text:-
<CTRL>G - DELETE CHARACTER   <CTRL>Y - DELETE LINE

When you start entering information, the system will "be in overwrite mode". This simply means that if the cursor is located at a position where information already appears, anything that you type will overwrite the existing information. By switching to "insert mode" you can have the system insert the new information without overwriting. The old information will appear to be "pushed" to the right as new information is typed at the cursor position..

The instruction <CTRL>V can be used to "toggle" the system between the insert and overwrite modes: each time you type <CTRL>V the current mode will be replaced by the other.

(e). Option 3 - Find an Entry or Entries.

When you select Option 3, the screen appears [something] like:-

---

Search for characters in:-
(1) AUTHORS, (2) TITLE, (3) PUBLISHER,
(4) COMMENTS, and/or   (5) CATALOGUE NUMBER.

Enter code(s) for field(s) to be used in search, and enter the string of characters to be used in searching each field. Simply RETURN through unused spaces.

Search field : :   search for :
Search field : :   search for :
Search field : :   search for :

MONCAT provides for searches for all entries in the catalogue that contain specific "strings" of characters in any nominated field. The detail of your search is defined by filling in some of the spaces in the form on the screen.

It is possible to ask for the search to consider up to three "strings" simultaneously: for example, one could look for all entries that contained

-> "NSW" somewhere in the "Authors" fields (AUTHOR1 and/or AUTHOR2
-> "road" somewhere in the same "Title field(s) (TITLE1 and/or TITLE2)
AND   -> "surface" somewhere in the same (title) fields.

To perform such a search, fill in the detail as:-

Search field :1:   search for :NSW
Search field :2:   search for :road
Search field :2:   search for :surface

Note that the system treats all text as being upper-case, so one may get some apparently odd results. For example, a search for entries with "NSW" in the title field would result in display of an entry with "answer" in the title amongst the items found!

As each item is found, the full entry will be displayed on the screen. When any key is pressed, the search will proceed to the next entry, if any, that matches the specifications. When no further matching entries can be found, the system returns to the main menu.

(f). Option 4 - Produce a Printed Copy of the Catalogue.

This option provides for printing of the full catalogue, with entries sorted by any one of the fields AUTHOR1, TITLE1, CATALOGUE -- a question on the screen asks for you to enter a code to say which.

(For the first two items, sorting actually uses only the first twenty characters so, for example, some items with nearly identical titles might not appear in strict alphabetical order).

The entries are printed four per page, and are spaced appropriately for either A4 (70 lines/page) or quarto (66 lines/page).

The layout of the printed report has been set to suit a system which prints 12 characters (or more) per inch. If 10 characters per inch are used, an adjustment will be required, sacrificing left-hand margin to ensure that print does not run off the right-hand-side of the page. This can be achieved by control of the way that paper is fed to the printer. Alternatively, make a minor alteration in the file PRINTMON.CMD: find the statement "STORE 12 to Margin", and change "12" to "3".

(g). Option 5 - Edit Existing Entries.

The entry to be edited is located by requesting a search for an entry with a specific "string" of up to 20 characters in any one of the groups Authors, Title, Catalogue, or Comments. For Authors, both AUTHOR1 and AUTHOR2 are searched; similarly, for Title, both TITLE1 and TITLE2 are checked. (Note that this is not quite as powerful as the search facility provided by option 3, which allows a search for an entry containing several distinct strings -- for some applications you may find it easier to use option 3 before going to option 5).

When an entry matching your specification is found, it is displayed on the screen: you may edit it following procedures described earlier, in section (d); or simply press RETURN till the cursor passes the end of the information.

At this stage, you are given the option to mark the entry for deletion from the database. (It will not actually be deleted until you confirm this in response to a question at the end of the editing session).

Next, the system asks if you wish to persist with searching/editing of entries that satisfy the same search criterion. If so, the next entry will be displayed.

When you have completed the search-and-edit process, MONCAT asks if you want permanent removal of the records which had been marked for deletion: if so, these entries are permanently removed from the database.

After this, the system returns to the main MONCAT menu.

==

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EVEN John Kemeny, one of the inventors of BASIC, admits he goofed: 'Including line numbers in GOTOs and GOSUBs was not one of our brighter ideas.' he said.

FLASH/BASIC fixes that. It lets you write any version of BASIC without line numbers. Instead you simply reference labels. Programs immediately become easier to write and read.

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FLASHPRINT/4 will change the way you use Wordstar.

CODE No	ITEM DESCRIPTION	QTY	RRP	MBR'S DISC.	WEIGHT in Kg	QTY REQ'D	TOTAL COST
01	ADAPTOR - Monitor	each	12.00	10.00	0.030		
05	BINDERS - AUSNEWS Holds 12 issues	each	9.10	7.80	0.500		
10	BOOKS - Supercalc Pocket Book	each	4.00	3.00	0.020		
15	- AUSNEWS Volume 1. Complete. . . .	each	18.00	15.00	0.700		
45	DISKS - BOXES - Plastic . . . .(10s). .	each	4.00	2.00	0.120		
51	- Non-lockable. .(50s) .	each	25.00	20.00	1.200		
55	- " . . . .(45s) .	each	47.50	40.00	2.000		
65	- Cleaning Kits	each	13.00	10.00	0.050		
70	- Cleaning Refills.	10	24.00	18.00	0.110		
75	- Verbatim Data Life.	10	40.00	30.00	0.350		
90	LABELS - MAILING - 102mm x 37mm 2-up . . .	1000	12.00	9.00	0.800		
95	- 89mm x 24mm 2-up . . .	1000	8.00	6.50	0.800		
100	- 102mm x 37mm 1-up . . .	1000	12.00	9.50	0.400		
104	- 89mm x 24mm 1-up . . .	1000	8.00	7.00	0.400		
105	- 89mm x 37mm 1-up . . .	1000	13.00	11.00	0.400		
135	PAPER - A4 Tractor Feed	box	48.00	40.00	10.000		
140	- Others available on request . . .	box	POA	POA			
145	RIBBONS - Epsom MX 70/80.	each	10.00	7.50	0.110		
150	- Epsom MX 100.	each	21.00	18.00	0.200		
155	- C-Itoh 8510	each	14.00	12.00	0.060		
160	- Brother HR-15/25 (multi-strike) .	each	9.25	7.70	0.100		
161	- Brother HR-15/25 (Nylon).	each	9.25	7.70	0.100		
165	- Epsom look-a-like SP-80	each	10.00	12.50	0.120		
170	- Others available on request . . .	each	POA	POA			
175	STANDS - Monitor - Computer top mounting .	each	36.00	31.00	0.850		
180	- Printer - 340mm x 410mm x 120mm .	each	49.00	41.00	2.500		
185	- as above with back. . .	each	49.00	41.00	2.600		
190	- 340mm x 550mm x 120mm .	each	49.00	41.00	2.700		
195	- as above with back. . .	each	49.00	41.00	2.800		
196	- Wrist Rest.	each	33.00	25.00	1.800		
200	T-SHIRTS- Size - 10 fits 72cm chest . .	each	5.00	3.00	0.120		
205	- 12 fits 76cm chest . .	each	5.00	3.00	0.120		
210	- 14 fits 90cm chest . .	each	5.00	3.00	0.120		
215	- 16 fits 95cm chest . .	each	5.00	3.00	0.120		
220	- 18 fits 100cm chest . .	each	5.00	3.00	0.120		
225	- 20 fits 105cm chest . .	each	5.00	3.00	0.120		
230	- 22 fits 110cm chest . .	each	5.00	3.00	0.120		
235	SELECTED ITEMS AT YOUR REQUEST (MAYBE). . .	????	POA	POA			

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